

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 RSR-01 /128 W

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R 160920Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL DOUALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 539

AMSVBASSY LAGOS 309

INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOUALA 228

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, EK

SUBJECT: ANOTHER ALLEGED PLOT DISCOVERED IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA

REF: DOUALA 186

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM CONTACTS IN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY BY CONSUL CLARKE DURING VISIT SANTA ISABEL JULY 10-12 AND IS BELIEVED TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY ACCURATE.

2. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PRESIDENT MACIAS' RETURN FROM LIBREVILLE ON 30 JUNE, HE ADDRESSED A CROWD ASSEMBLED IN FRONT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN SANTA ISABEL AND CHARGED THAT A "BUBI PLOT" HAD BEEN DISCOVERED DURING HIS ABSENCE. HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE INSTIGATORS WERE AT THAT TIME BEING ROUNDED UP. DURING THE COURSE OF HIS DISCOURSE HE OBSERVED SARDONICALLY THAT THE "BUBIS DO NOT WANT INDEPENDENCE" AND THAT THEY FAVORED A "THIRD POWER", UNIDENTIFIED. HE ALSO ATTACHED STRONGLY THE ROLE CATHOLIC PRIESTS, NOTING THAT AN ARTICLE HAD RECENTLY APPEARED IN AN UNIDENTIFIED FRZICH NEWSPAPER (PARHAPS "LA CROIX" ACCORDING TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR), IN WHICH A FRENCH PRIEST IN CAMEROON WROTE OF ECONOMIC

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DECLINING AND RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA.

3. ARRESTED ON THE DAY OF HIS RETURN WERE THE MINISTER OF LABOR, ROMAN BORICO TOICHOA; THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE, EXPEDITO RAFAEL MOMO BOKARA; AND GOVERNOR OF FERNANDO POO, CLAUDIO BIRIBE UKEPULA, ALL BUBIS. ACCORDING TO LOCAL RUMOR THEY WERE ESCORTED QUICKLY TO BATA BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE SURETE, NORBERTO NSUE. THEY REMAIN IN JAIL AND NO WORD IS AVAILABLE ABOUT THEIR CONDITION. THE VLESIDENT'S PRIVATE CHAPLAIN, FATHER CILIAO BOQUESA, WAS ALSO ARRESTED.

4. FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENTIAL ORATION, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY, GAUDENCIO ASUMU, CALLED TOGETHER ALL OF THE CATHOLIC PRIESTS IN THE AREA AND ASKED THEM IF THEY WERE UNHAPPY. HE TOLD THE SILENT GROUP THAT ANYONE COMPLAINING ABOUT CONDITIONS WAS GOING TO END UP IN PRISON.

5. SOME MILITARY ACTIVITY HAS BEEN SIGHTED EARLY THIS MONTH IN THE AREA OF BASACATA DEL ESTE, A BUBI ZONE SOUTHEAST OF SANTA ISABEL. THERE, A GROUP OF SIX OR SEVEN BUBI YOUTHS DISTRIBUTED PHAMPLETS ATTACKING THE GOVERNMENT ATTRIBUTED TO THE "FERNANDO PO LIBERATION MOVEMENT." MANY BUBI CHIEFS IN THAT AREA GATHERED THEIR PEOPLE TOGETHER AND READ THE CONTENTS THINKING THEY WERE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS. VILLAGERS HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT ALL ELECTRICITY AND WATER WILL BE CUT OFF IN THAT REGION IF THE ERRING CHILDREN ARE NOT SURRENDERED TO THE AUTHORITIES. IYARKE

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